

**Parish Room Bookings:**  
**Emily Millar**  
 Mobile: 07929934367

# St Mary's Northchurch Newsletter

## July & August



**Church enquiries to:**  
**Revd Jonathan Gordon**  
**01442 871547**  
[revjagordon@googlemail.co](mailto:revjagordon@googlemail.co)

## What is courage?

There is a prayer that is used in the churches across the Diocese of St Albans that asks God to help us live out faith with "imagination, joy and courage." These words will speak to everyone in different ways but the theme of courage has been very evident in the news in recent weeks. In the terror attacks that have taken place one of the people who was murdered was an Australian nurse called Kirsty Boden. She died when running to help other victims on London Bridge. Her family issued a statement that described her as "the most outgoing, kind and generous person who loved to help people. Helping people was what she loved to do in her job as a nurse and in her daily life." They went on to describe how they were so proud of her "brave actions which demonstrate how selfless, caring and heroic she was, not only on that night, but throughout all of her life." The same qualities have also been evident in the stories emerging from the appalling events surrounding what has taken place at Grenfell Tower. In these tragic events courageous individuals, alongside the emergency services, instinctively reached out and helped others.

If we are ever asked about who is an example of courage there is a good chance that we might think about people who acted on behalf of others. There is also a possibility that there will be times when we have been afraid when facing something and are not sure how to move forward. Courage can come in different ways. I remember someone saying that courage is not having no fear, but having fear and doing the right thing anyway. These recent events are examples of extraordinary times whilst most of life is caught up with the ordinary hours when we spend time with family or friends, go shopping, or commute to work or go on the school run. Courage is also evident in the ordinary times and can be seen in numerous ways. It might

be dealing with bereavement, an illness, caring for a family member, getting through a time of crisis, or helping someone who is in need. The list can be very long but often involves times when a person is unsure that they will find the strength to keep going.

When there is a major incident you see the best and sadly the worst of human nature on display. The worst side can often dominate the headlines, but when saying the diocesan prayer I'm very thankful for the many courageous people there are who show that quality in so many diverse ways.

Rev Jonathan Gordon

### Recital at St. Mary's

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## Early Christian table talk

We are sometimes embarrassed by talking about religion to one another. This was not the experience of the early Christians who took it for granted. A few examples from the New Testament (various translations) demonstrate this:

*"You have heard the call to belong to Jesus Christ, loved by God, called to be his people."*

*"You belong to Christ and Christ to God."*

*"God is rich in mercy and because of his great love has brought us to life in Christ."*

*"We are created in Christ Jesus for a life of good deeds."*

*"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ give thanks every day for everything to our God and Father."*

If we read such biblical passages every day, they will become part of our mental furniture, an element in the spiritual atmosphere we should breathe in Christ. As we absorb these attitudes into our personalities we are transformed from the ordinary everyday thinking we tend to share with the world. We become renewed in spirit and meaning is added to our life. We shall learn, as the apostle Paul puts it, to care for the interests of others rather than merely for our own.

More quotations:- *"God gives us insight of every kind, enabling us to learn from experience what things really matter."*

*"My God will supply all your needs out of the munificence of his riches in Christ Jesus."*

*"Now my friends I bring you joy in the Lord. Rejoice evermore!"*

*"From heaven we expect our deliverer to come - even the Lord Jesus Christ."*

*"For me to live is Christ!"*

Let such qualities of speech about our relationship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ penetrate the very structure of our lives on to a higher plane.

Edgar Wille

## St Mary's has a very special bell

You hear it strike the hours. If you were in the tower after the clock strikes, you would hear its very melodic hum. It is often the 'hurry bell', the one that rings a solo immediately before the church service is due to start. It is tolled (= rung very slowly) up to 11.00 am on Remembrance Sunday.

"What's so special about all that?" you might well ask. "The bell is only doing its job."

Our Tenor bell, the one with the deepest note, was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1834 – before Queen Victoria came to the throne. Three generations of the Hughes family have carried on the business since the early 1900s but there is no-one to succeed them. The economics of being a specialised foundry have become more challenging over the years. The foundry site is too small to allow for expansion – and there are pressures from residential and office use in the neighbourhood against a manufacturer continuing to trade. The Whitechapel Bell Foundry was one of barely a dozen firms that have traded continuously for more than 500 years – and it closed in May.

Next time you are in church, look among the kneelers to find one that incorporates the logo of the Foundry. On a deep blue background, it has a 'garland' of browns and gold round three bells, the top one bearing a crown.

When you hear the clock strike, think of the firm that cast Big Ben – and our Tenor – and literally hundreds of bells around the world. Give thanks for their craftsmanship over the years, and for the special bell of history that sounds from St Mary's tower.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

## Northchurch and Berkhamsted U3A

We meet at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane on the first or second Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12 noon. The meetings include a visiting speaker and refreshments. It is an ideal opportunity for retired or semi-retired people to join in various activities, learn new skills, outings and making new friends.

For more information, please contact Chris on 01442 271591 or go to our website:

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# 2017 PHAKAMISA NEWSLETTER

Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen. Trusting that it is all well with everyone in 2017.

Phakamisa programmes continue as planned this year.

**Early Childhood Development** – the numbers have increased this year. It is good to know that Phakamisa is getting more recognition in our communities for the excellent training that it provides. A supervisor from one of the crèches in the community came to register her 3 teachers and said **“Phakamisa is still one of my best training centres, my crèche received the certificate from the Department of Social Development as the best crèche in the area. We could not have received that award if we hadn’t learnt from the best and that is you, Phakamisa. I have also referred other crèches to here.”**

**Tholuthando** This is our support group and we have 78 members in it this year, an increase of 25. This year we have been joined by 5 males which is very interesting as males don’t like to participate in such groups. One could think it is the stigma associated with attending such support groups. The group is very active and they all participate in our skills training development programmes.

**Poultry** The males were happy to be able to share some of the profit made out of the poultry project last year. Though it was not a lot of money but they really appreciated it. Mr Ngidi member of the group said: **“no-one has ever given me R1 000 just like that, when we started this project I didn’t see where it was going but look today I am going to buy a pair of trousers and a shirt for myself”** He was so happy when he said that and was motivating others to work harder as they can make more money if they push themselves.

**Beadwork, Sewing and Cooking** This year the group have

started to make nice bags, and money bags together with the sewing team/group. One care giver invited me to her house to come see her bed that she bought from the money she saved from selling her beadwork. She said what Phakamisa is doing for them is invaluable. Putting the skills, that they learn at Phakamisa, to use mean that their orphans don’t go to bed hungry.

**ACHIEVEMENTS: Level 4 – Accredited course** Finally we managed to accredit our Level 4 course under our Early Childhood Development programme. We are piloting this course with 10 students this term and will be starting another group in July. The training so far is going well and the students are excited about this new course. A Phakamisa Edu care certificate is the pre-requisite for this course, and because of that Edu care enrolment has increased in numbers.

**SPECIAL EVENTS: Thursday in Black** Thursday in black is another of our awareness raising events. It is the awareness against domestic violence. We usually do this on our last Thursday before the end of our first term. The care givers like this celebration so much that they now invite their friends and neighbours as well. We had about 500 people who participated in this event this year. It was very interesting to hear from one male member who attended saying, **“This should not only be for females’ mom Thokozani, we as males need to participate in such gatherings as well because some of us also stay in an abusive relationship. Maybe next time Phakamisa needs to extend the invitation outside to our communities or run this awareness in our communities”**

We at Phakamisa would like to wish you all a HAPPY SUMMER filled with the HOLY SPIRIT. God bless, Thokozani

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Private 35581 John RANDALL**11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Essex Regiment, Killed 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1917**

John Randall was one of the cornerstones of Northchurch life. Not only did he run a successful market garden business on land leased from the Diocese behind the church, he was also on the governing body of the Berkhamsted Co-operative Society and, like his father and grandfather before him, was the Sexton of St Mary's and a keen bellringer. A father of three children, John received his conscription papers in 1916, and appealed to the County Tribunal for exemption on the grounds of being a food producer. The Tribunal were sympathetic, but only allowed him more time to put his affairs in order. In January 1917, John reported for duty at Watford and was sent to 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Essex Regiment.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1917, John and his comrades took part in the capture of a portion of the German front line trenches near the town of Loos, taking part in bitter hand-to-hand fighting. John was severely wounded and captured by the Germans and died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Sadly, his grave was later lost and John's name is now remembered on the Loos Memorial. In February 1918, the bellringers at St Mary's rang a 'dumb peal' in his honour following a memorial service for several Northchurch servicemen who had been killed during the previous few months.



NOTE: The Northchurch bellringers of today will commemorate the centenary of [his] death by ringing a long length of call changes from 5.00pm on Sunday 2nd July.

Lance Corporal 45451 William Benjamin Ernest WAITE**Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), Killed 11<sup>th</sup> July 1917**

William Waite was born in Stonesfield, Oxfordshire in 1884 where his father, Benjamin, worked as an agricultural labourer. The Waite family later moved to Northchurch in search of work. After leaving school, William started work as a gardener and in 1905 married Rose Maple in St Mary's church.

In December 1915, William, now a father of three, and working as a gardener in Essex, entered the Army Reserves. In

June 1916, he joined 5<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment, but just three weeks later he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and sent for training at Belton Park, near Grantham in Lincolnshire, the family seat of the Brownlow family who owned Ashridge. Promoted to Lance Corporal, William later moved to the Machine Gun Corps at Camiers in France where he became a fully-qualified machine gunner.

William was sent to Nieuport on the Belgian coast in June 1917, ready to support a coastal attack on the defending German forces by specialised troops. Unfortunately, the Germans became aware of the build-up of British troops in the area and decided to launch their own pre-emptive attack. On 6<sup>th</sup> July, they launched a massive artillery barrage and four days later, German Stormtroopers attacked, causing mayhem among the British troops. During a British counter-attack the following day, William Waite was killed. William's body remained unidentified and his name is now remembered on the Nieuport Memorial in Belgium.



THE GREAT WAR  
1914 - 1918

Private 57034 Arthur WELLING**74<sup>th</sup> Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).  
Killed 8<sup>th</sup> August 1917**

Arthur Welling was born in Northchurch in 1896, and grew up in Orchard End. He was too young to volunteer when war broke out in 1914, but in due course, Arthur joined the Northamptonshire Regiment. Within three months, he had transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, and like William Waite, was sent to both Belton Park and Camiers to train. After successfully completing his training Arthur was allocated to 74<sup>th</sup> Company, Machine Gun Corps.

At the start of 1917, Arthur's Machine Gun Corps was in the relatively quiet area south of Ypres and was chosen to take part in the attack on the heavily defended Messines Ridge. At 02.50 on 7<sup>th</sup> June, British sappers exploded an enormous mine under the German trenches. The explosion killed over 10,000 German soldiers and was heard as far away as Dublin. Following the explosion, British troops supported by Arthur and his Machine Gun Corps comrades, advanced into enemy occupied territory, capturing the ridge.

Sent to recuperate after the battle, Arthur next saw action in the opening days of the Third Battle of Ypres. On 1<sup>st</sup> August, Arthur and his comrades took over positions to the east of Ypres in preparation for an attack on the village of Westhoek. A week later, during heavy shellfire, Arthur and two of his fellow machine-gunners were killed. Arthur's body was never formerly identified, and his name is now recorded on the Menin Gate at Ypres.

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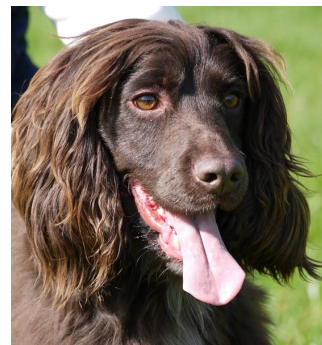
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## Sunday Services at St Mary's



### 2nd July

*Trinity 3*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

### 9th July

*Trinity 4*

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am All Age Service  
6.00pm Taize Service



A quiet meditation service with chants and silence.  
Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards.  
All welcome

### 16th July

*Trinity 5*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

### 23rd July

*Trinity 6*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

### 30th July

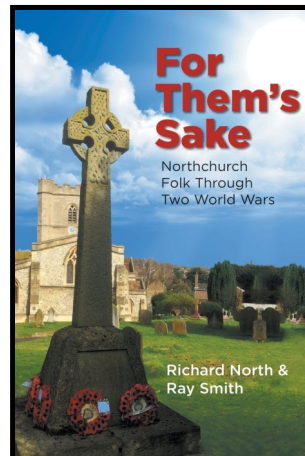
*Trinity 7*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
No Evening Prayer

## Help needed: Calling Piano Players

At Shaftsbury Court in Valley Road we have a Service for Elderly people who are unable to go to church, every Sunday at 3pm. The clergy in this community are very good to come. We are looking for people to help by coming to play for us occasionally.

Jennie Budd 870076 [jennys.email@talktalk.net](mailto:jennys.email@talktalk.net)



Copies of "For Them's Sake", the stories behind the names on the Northchurch War Memorial and other memorials in the village, are now available on Amazon.co.uk.

Copies will also be available to purchase at the St Mary's Fete on 1st July. Hardback £16, Paperback £10

## Contacts for the Newsletter

Distribution to Valerie Clark, 862613

Advertising & editorial by email to the Editor, Jill Hipson [jill.hipson@live.co.uk](mailto:jill.hipson@live.co.uk)

**Next issue: September 2017.**

**NO AUGUST NEWSLETTER.**

All advertisements must be paid for before they can be published.

Copy date is 15th of August.



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St Mary's Church

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